

**Amendments to Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving, in an automated programmed electronic computer system for authorizing a transaction between a merchant and an account holder of a financial account and from the merchant for use in real-time authorization, transaction variables for the transaction involving a purchase of a travel ticket using the financial account, the transaction variables including a passenger name on the travel ticket, a travel date, a routing description of the travel ticket, and an electronic ticket indicator;

processing, by the computer system, the transaction variables through a fraud risk model to determine a risk factor for the transaction; and

transmitting, by the computer system, an ~~authorization decision to the merchant to approval of the transaction or referral of~~ ~~approve or refer~~ the transaction for further identification based upon the output of the fraud risk model.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

approving the transaction in response to the risk factor being within a range of acceptable values.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, the approving further comprising:

retrieving a purchasing history of the account holder; and approving the transaction based on the output of the fraud risk model and the purchasing history.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, the approving further comprising:

retrieving a status of the financial account; and approving the transaction based on the output of the fraud risk model and the status.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

declining the transaction when the risk factor is within a range of unacceptable values.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
transmitting a request to contact a financial institution maintaining the financial account in response to the risk factor being within a range of unacceptable values.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
retrieving a purchasing history of the account holder; and  
declining the transaction based on the purchasing history.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
retrieving a status of the financial account; and  
declining the transaction based on the status.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, the fraud-risk model comprising a combination of risk values assigned to the transaction variables, the risk values determined from historical data of prior transactions involving a plurality of account holders.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, the fraud-risk model comprising a combination of risk values determined for various comparisons of the transaction variables, the risk values determined from historical data of prior transactions involving a plurality of account holders.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein a risk value of a comparison of a name of the account holder and the passenger name indicates a higher risk when the name of the account holder does not match the passenger name, and indicates a lower risk when the name of the account holder matches the passenger name.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the transaction variables are received in a standard format so that a processing time of the transaction is not greater than a standard processing time for transactions that do not involve the purchase of travel tickets.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, the financial account comprising at least one of: a credit card account, a charge card account and a debit account.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, the transaction variables further comprising: an origin city for the travel ticket, a destination city, a class of service of the travel ticket, and a number of passengers traveling.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, the transaction variables comprising: a name of the account holder, a reservation code of the ticket, and a carrier code.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for authorizing a transaction between a merchant and an account holder having a financial account, the transaction involving a purchase of an airline ticket, the method comprising:

transmitting, by an automated programmed electronic computer system for authorizing the transaction and to a transaction processor, transaction variables for the transaction, the transaction variables including a passenger name on the airline ticket, a travel date, a routing type of the airline ticket, and an electronic ticket indicator; and

receiving, by the computer system and from the transaction processor, an ~~authorization decision to the merchant to approve of the transaction or referral of -approve or refer~~ the transaction for further identification based upon the output of the fraud risk model.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the transaction variables are processed by the transaction processor through a fraud-risk model comprising a combination of risk values assigned to the transaction variables, the risk values determined from historical data of prior transactions involving a plurality of account holders.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the transaction variables are processed by the transaction processor through a fraud-risk model comprising a combination of risk values determined for various comparisons of the transaction variables, the risk values determined from historical data of prior transactions involving a plurality of account holders.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein a risk value of a comparison of the name of the account holder and the passenger name indicates a higher risk when a name of the account

holder does not match the passenger name, and indicates a lower risk when the name of the account holder matches the passenger name.

20. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the transaction variables are transmitted in a standard format so that a processing time of the transaction is not greater than a standard processing time for transactions that do not involve the purchase of airline tickets.

21. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the merchant comprises at least one of: an online travel vendor, an airline carrier and a travel agent.

22. (Original) The method of claim 16, the transaction variables further comprising: an origin city for the travel ticket, a destination city, a class of service of the travel ticket, and a number of passengers traveling.

23. (Original) The method of claim 16, the transaction variables comprising: a name of the account holder, a reservation code of the ticket, and a carrier code.

24. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

determining, by an automated programmed electronic computer system for generating and applying a fraud-risk model to financial transactions involving purchases of airline tickets by account holders from merchants and based on historical data, a risk value for transaction variables of transactions involving purchases of airline tickets, the transaction variables including at least one of: an account holder name, a reservation code, a passenger name, an origin city, a destination city, a travel date, a routing description, a class of service, an electronic ticket indicator, a number of passengers traveling and a carrier code;

combining, by the computer system, the risk values to generate a fraud risk model that determines risk factors for transactions involving purchases of airline ticket;

receiving, by the computer system, a request from a merchant to authorize a transaction involving a purchase of a ticket by an account holder, the request including transaction variables corresponding to the account holder and the ticket;

determining, by the computer system, a risk factor for the transaction by inputting the transaction variables corresponding to the account holder and the ticket to the fraud risk model; and

generating, by the computer system, an ~~authorization decision to the merchant to approval of the transaction or referral of~~ ~~approve or refer~~ the transaction for further identification based upon the output of the fraud risk model.

25. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving, by a programmed electronic computer system for authorizing a financial transaction between a merchant and an account holder of a financial and from the merchant for use in real-time authorization, transaction variables for a transaction involving a purchase of a travel ticket using the financial account, the transaction variables including at least one of: a passenger name on the travel ticket, a travel date, a routing description of the travel ticket, and an electronic ticket indicator;

processing, by the computer system, the transaction variables through a fraud risk model to determine a risk factor for the transaction; and

transmitting, by the computer system, an ~~authorization decision to the merchant to approval of the transaction or referral of~~ ~~approve or refer~~ the transaction for further identification based upon the output of the fraud risk model.